AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sliding component comprising:

~~formed by: filling an~~ a sintered green compact formed from compacted iron-based material powder and ~~a~~ copper-based material powder ~~in a filling portion of a mold; compacting said iron- and copper-based material powders so as to form a green compact; and sintering said green compact~~,

wherein: said copper-based material powder contains flat powder particles of copper or copper alloy; an average value of maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is larger than that of maximum projected areas of ~~the~~ iron-based material powder particles; and copper is ~~allowed to~~ segregated on a surface of said sliding component.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A sliding component comprising:

~~formed by: filling~~ a sintered green compact formed from compacted iron-based material powder and copper-based material powder ~~in a filling portion of a mold; compacting said iron- and copper-based material powders so as to form a green compact; and sintering said green compact~~,

wherein: said copper-based material powder contains flat powder particles of copper or copper alloy, said flat powder particles having a larger aspect ratio than ~~said~~ iron-based material powder particles; and copper is ~~allowed to~~ segregated on a surface of said sliding component.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The sliding component according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sliding portion having a surface coverage of copper greater than or equal to 60%.

Claim 4 (original): The sliding component according to claim 3, wherein the surface coverage of copper is greater than or equal to 90%.

Claim 5 (original): The sliding component according to claim 1, wherein said sliding component generates a concentration gradient in which a copper-to-iron ratio thereof decreases from the surface of the sliding component toward an inside thereof while increasing the ratio of iron to copper.

Claim 6 (original): The sliding component according to claim 3, wherein said one surface is a sliding surface formed in a cylindrical shape.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a sliding component, comprising the steps of:

filling an iron-based material powder and a copper-based material powder into a filling portion of a mold;

compacting said iron-based material powder and copper-based material powders so as to form a green compact; and

sintering said green compact,

wherein said copper-based material powder contains flat powder particles of copper or copper alloy; an average value of maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is larger than that of maximum projected areas of ~~the~~ iron-based material powder particles; and said flat powder particles in the filling portion are ~~allowed to~~ segregated on a surface of said green compact.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a sliding component, comprising the steps of:

filling an iron-based material powder and a copper-based material powder into a filling portion of a mold;

compacting said iron-based material powder and copper-based material powders so as to form a green compact; and

sintering said green compact,

wherein said copper-based material powder contains flat powder particles of copper or copper alloy, said flat powder particles having a larger aspect ratio than ~~said~~ iron-based material powder particles; and said flat powder particles in the filling portion are ~~allowed to~~ segregated on a surface of said green compact.

Claim 9 (original): The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 7, wherein the aspect ratio of each flat powder particle is greater than or equal to 10.

Claim 10 (original): The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 9, wherein the aspect ratio of each flat powder particle is in a range of 20 to 50.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 9, further including ~~a~~the step of:

segregating said flat powder particles toward the surface of said sliding component by applying vibration to said iron-based material powder and copper-based material powder filled in the filling portion of the mold.

Claim 12 (original): The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 7, wherein a ratio of said flat powder particles to the entire material powders is in a range of 20 to 70 % by weight.

Claim 13 (original): The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 9, wherein a ratio of said flat powder particles to the entire material powders is in a range of 20 to 70 % by weight.

Claim 14 (original): The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 12, wherein the ratio of said flat powder particles to the entire material powders is in a range of 20 to 40 % by weight.

Claim 15 (original): The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 7, wherein the average value of the maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is at least 3 times as large as that of the maximum projected areas of the iron-based material powder particles.

Claim 16 (original): The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 9, wherein the average value of the maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is at least 3 times as large as that of the maximum projected areas of the iron-based material powder particles.

Claim 17 (original): The method for manufacturing a sliding component according to claim 12, wherein the average value of the maximum projected areas of the flat powder particles is at least 3 times as large as that of the maximum projected areas of the iron-based material powder particles.